(c) by when this proposal is likely to be finalised and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The Charter of Demands on which three federations of postal employees have served notice for indefinite strike with effect from 2.5.2000 includes, *inter alia*, demand for improvement in the pay scales of Postal Assistants.

Fax Directory

3836. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no Directory of Fax number in Delhi and other cities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Sir, the telepone directories are printed under the Yellow Pages Scheme as per revised order circulated in Nov., 1998. This scheme envisages that there shall be no separate directory for Fax numbers. The Fax numbers are to be included under the usual heading and to differentiate, a suffix "F" is to be added at the end of the number.

Traditional system of post offices

3837. SHRI K. M. KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any study on the usefulness of the present traditional system of post offices *vis-a-vis* the advancement of scientific technology ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have made any attempt to improve the position of some of the post offices;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the difference observed by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The Government had conducted a detailed study in 1988-89 to study the usefulness of the traditional postal system in India and possible improvements in the light of advancement in scientific technology. The recommendations of the study were carefully examined and it was decided to adapt technologies to the needs of the post in the following areas :—

(i) Introduction of computer based multipurpose counter machines with a concept of a single window for all types of transactions.

(ii) Use of Satellite Technology for money transfers.

(iii) Computerisation of Registration Sorting and Transit Mail Offices.

(iv) Setting up of Automatic Mail Processing Center in major metropolitan towns.

(d) to (f) More than 71 lakhs transactions per month are being performed on computer based multipurpose counter machines and over 10.5 lakhs money orders are being transmitted on the Satellite. More than 12 lakh mails are being processed daily on the Automatic Mail Processing Centers at Mumbai and Chennai. Action taken in this regard has resulted in provision of better services to the customers across the counter, less queuing time, enhancing customers satisfaction and has expedited money transfers as well as the processing of mails.

Revision of pay-scales of Extra Departmental Employees

3838. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Postal Department enjoys a special distinction of being a State run postal system spread all over the rural areas of the country ;

(b) whether the Extra Departmental Employees handles bulk of the postal work in the Rural areas of the country and are not being paid a dignified Wage, being exploited and are not being regularised ; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to regularised them and also appoint a Departmental Pay Commission for a proper pay review of the EDA/EDEs ?